minority concentration districts have been identified, on the basis of 2001 census data relating to population, availability of basic amenities, literacy and work participation rates. A provision of Rs.120 crore has been made for the year 2007-08 for a multi-sectoral development programme for these districts.

Inclusion of Nepali speaking people as linguistic minority

1602. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sects that have been included under the linguistic minorities;

(b) the details of the linguistic minorities, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to include the Nepali speaking people in the list of linguistic minorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) State-wise details of linguistic minorities are available in the 43rd Report (July, 2004 - June, 2005) of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities already tabled in the House on 27-11-2006. This is also available on the website *www.nclm.nic.in.*

(c) to (e) State Governments/Union Territory Administrations identify linguistic minorities in their respective States. Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has reported that, on the basis of inputs received from various State Governments and Census records, Nepali is spoken in the State of Assam, West Bengal (major language in Darjeeling District), Sikkim (regional language), Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

Grants to Maulana Azad Foundation

1603. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grants given to the Maulana Azad Foundation during the last three years; and

(b) in what manner it is being utilized?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Government provides assistance towards the corpus fund of Maulana Azad Education Foundation. Funds released towards the corpus fund during the last three years are as under:

2004-05	–	nil
2005-06	–	Rs.29.99 crores
2006-07	–	Rs.100.00 crores

In addition, a sum of Rs.1.00 crore was provided to the foundation as grant-in-aid in 2004-2005.

Interest earned on the amount in the corpus fund is utilized by the Foundation for implementing educational schemes run by it.

New welfare programme for minorities

1604 . SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's new welfare programme for minorities aims for improving the living conditions of minorities and also provides an appropriate share in infrastructure development schemes;

(b) if so, how much of the total fund meant for development schemes is earmarked for the welfare of minorities;

(c) whether any financial outlay has been sanctioned for development of Muslims in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, announced in June, 2006, provides for enhancing opportunities for education, equitable share in economic activities and employment, improving the conditions of living of minorities and, wherever possible, earmarking of 15% for the minorities, of the physical targets and financial outlays under schemes considered amenable to earmarking. For 2007-08 an amount of Rs. 102466.07 lakhs have been so earmarked for the minorities.

(c) to (e) The earmarking of the funds for the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities is for the minorities, including Muslims. For 2007-08 an amount of Rs. 1456.26 lakhs have been earmarked for minorities, including Muslims, in Andhra Pradesh under various schemes considered amenable to earmarking.

Population of minorities

1605. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of the minorities in the country, as per the 2001 census, State-wise;

(b) the population of the minorities as on the 31st December, 2006;

(c) the ratio of male/female child among Muslims; and

(d) the details of various programmes prepared by Government for socio-educational upliftment of Muslims?